

Administrator Perciasepe, thank you for being here today to provide testimony and answer questions on your agency's FY2014 budget request.

In the committee's role of providing oversight over EPA, we want to ensure that our nation's resources are protected according to the law while preserving individual and economic freedom. As we continue to experience unacceptably slow economic growth, it will be important that we do not apply additional barriers from Washington. As a budget reflects priorities, the focus of your agency's budget should be on how to best protect Americans' health and our environment without adding unnecessary burdens to individuals and job-creators.

Undoubtedly, the EPA plays an important role protecting our nation's environment and local communities from bad actors and other hazards. Throughout my district there are sites being investigated and cleaned up under Superfund authority. To highlight a recent example, the town of Wedron, Illinois started receiving Superfund emergency funding in 2011. Residents of that town have been trying to identify the source of a contaminated water supply for nearly three decades. I have made it a priority to work with the EPA and the Illinois EPA to help solve this problem, find solutions to protect the town's resources, and ensure residents have access to clean, safe drinking water.

I was discouraged, then, to see a budget reduction for the Superfund program in your agency's request. Having worked with the EPA with this program, I have seen how limited resources can delay agency actions for communities in need. EPA's emphasis should be on protecting taxpayers and the American environment first, and I would hope its budget will reflect that.

As we look to spur economic growth and create better opportunities for Americans, it will be important that EPA works with the committee to help protect our environment without unnecessarily hurting American jobs. The EPA should not regulate what Congress does not legislate. I look forward to working with you and your agency to help achieve this balance and ensure Americans do not suffer under unnecessary burdens and regulations.